

This motion is put forward by the Labour Group, and aims to secure cross party support for a long term solution to the environmental and health issues created by Walleys Quarry Landfill Site.

Council notes:

The issuing of a much needed and long overdue Closure Notice in November 2024 and welcomes the cessation of Walleys Quarry Limited's management of the site.

With regret, and anger, the operator's decision to liquidate and run away from the terms of their licence, their obligation to the people of Newcastle-under-Lyme and their years of failures.

The initial works that the Environment Agency have carried out since the issuing of the above-mentioned Closure Notice to ensure the site is made safe and secure.

Two recommendations from the Walleys Quarry Committee of Inquiry (Sept 2024) note that:

"2. to investigate the costs for restoration of the site against the value of the restoration bond, is still an issue.

6. to look at restoration plans to ensure that the site is capped and restored effectively and to the correct standards"

In April 2025, it has been reported that the Environment Agency provided evidence in Judicial Review proceedings 'which indicates that they do not intend to permanently cap the site, install a surface management scheme or manage groundwater levels.....'

Council believes:

That work must go on with the Environment Agency to take all the necessary action to make Walleys Quarry Landfill site safe and, protect local residents from the risk of pollution, in the longer term and we are sure these concerns are shared by all stakeholders.

The Environment Agency's plan to remove the MMF's (which permanently monitor pollution levels) and intend to use mobile handheld monitors on an ad hoc basis which means that pollution levels from the Landfill will not be properly monitored.

The Environment Agency should carry out the safety work that it required the operator to do as part of the Closure Notice to ensure that the site was safely closed down.

Council resolves:

- To work with the Environment Agency, Adam Jogee MP and all relevant authorities to deliver all actions required to ensure that Walleys Quarry Landfill

Site is safe, the residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme are protected, and it does not present a present or future risk of pollution for local residents.

- To ask the Chief Executive on behalf of all members to write to Adam Jogee MP, Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme, to seek his specific assistance in getting the relevant Government departments and agencies, to engage with partners through the established coordinating groups and to play an active role in the safe restoration and remediation of the site.
- To ask the Chief Executive on behalf of all members to write to the leadership of Staffordshire County Council,(who granted planning permission for the site) and the Environment Agency (who issued the permit) to ask for their commitment to ensure real and meaningful financial support for the on-going restoration costs associated with the safe restoration and remediation of the site.
- To continue to use all its efforts to pursue the Directors of WQ personally, via the Liquidators of the Company (the Monitoring Officer having already written to the Liquidators in this respect) in relation to their many failures to properly manage the affairs of WQ and the resulting blight which they have left upon the local community in N-u-L

Proposer: Councillor Dave Jones

Seconder: Councillor Jacqueline Brown